

22 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: S/S Cables

William Connett, who described himself as Director of the Operations Center, Department of State, called to request that we not use Rio 373, LD/SS, BUO in any of our publications. He reviewed briefly the understanding which he had with [REDACTED] on the use of S/S cables in our publications and said that this agreement had been working most satisfactorily from his point of view. However, he wished to call our attention to Bonn 650 which we had used in the CIB several days ago, and which he felt should not have been used because of its sensitivity. He then got down to Rio 373 and said that he would not want this cable used in any of our publications and thus spread around town. I said I realized that the Department would not necessarily agree with the views expressed by the Ambassador in Rio 373 nor would we, but that I didn't quite see what was in the cable which made it too "sensitive" within the terms of our understanding on the use of S/S cables. I told him it would be helpful in the future use of S/S cables to tell me what it was in this cable that made it too sensitive. He mentioned the treatment of the President's visit in the cable, and he said that the cable dealt with sensitive aspects of our relations with Brazil. He then reiterated that he did not want it published. He had given it very limited distribution within the Department and that it had not gone to the Pentagon at all. He realized that the Director and other people in CIA had a need to see the cable and would be discussing it with the Department, but he did not want it published. 25X1A

Comment: Mr. Connett sounded friendly and agreeable and gave no indication that he wished to reopen or revise our general understanding on the use of S/S materials, and it seemed to me that he was speaking on the behalf of people elsewhere in the Department who disagree with Ambassador Gordon's views and wished to limit their circulation until they have had a chance to make their own assessment of the situation in Brazil. I agreed to withdraw the Brazil item since it didn't appear to be a case that we would wish to raise as a matter of principle. 25X1A